



Attorney Docket 023971/0301

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Norio IIDA

Title: DRIVING-FORCE DISTRIBUTION CONTROL SYSTEM FOR FOUR-WHEEL-DRIVE VEHICLES

Appl. No.: 10/651,095

Filing Date: 08/29/2003

Examiner: Thu V. Nguyen

Art Unit: 3661

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 4, 2006, applicant hereby elects Species 1 for prosecution in the subject application. Claims 1-7, 11-16, and 20 are readable on the elected species.

In addition, claims 1-6, 11-15, and 20 are believed to be generic as shown in the table below.

Species 1 (Figs. 4A-4B)	Claims 1-6, 7, 11-15, 16, 20
Species 2 (Fig. 11A)	Claims 1-6, 8, 11-15, 17, 20
Species 3 (Fig. 13)	Claims 1-6, 9-10, 11-15, 18-19, 20

Note that original claim 11 is a means-plus-function claim version substantially corresponding to original claim 1, and original claim 14 is a method claim version substantially corresponding to original claim 1. Additionally, note that original claims 8 and

17 are similar to each other, and original claims 9 and 10 are substantially similar to claims 18 and 19, respectively.

Therefore, applicants submit that claims 10 and 19 are not generic contrary to the assertion in the Office Action.

Specifically, (i) the features recited in claims 7 and 16 are particular to the 1st Species 1 (in particular, related to step S49 of Fig. 4A). (ii) The features recited in claims 8 and 17 are particular to the 2nd Species 2 (in particular, related to step S49' of Fig. 11A). (iii) Finally, the features recited in claims 9, 10, 18, and 9 are particular to the 3rd Species 3 (in particular, related to step S49'' of Fig. 13).

Therefore, for the reasons set out above, pending claims 1-6, 11-15, and 20 are generic to each of the three species (i)-(iii).

Applicant is entitled to rejoinder of the additional species that are written in dependent form to an allowed generic claim or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. §1.141. Applicant also, of course, reserves the right to file a divisional application covering the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

Receipt of the initial Office Action on the merits is awaited.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant hereby petitions for any needed extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date February 2, 2006

By

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